



09-30-06

IRON 6 SENDS

# Columbus Day 2006

30 September 2006

1. Columbus Day weekend is a celebration to commemorate the discovery of the New World of the Americas by Christopher Columbus. The long weekend is intended for all to enjoy quality family time and the opportunity to travel in Germany and Europe. We must make safety our number one priority in all of our Columbus Day activities.
2. Holiday weekends intensify the potential for accidents. Every year, senseless injuries occur as the result of speeding, unsafe vehicles, and overindulgence in alcohol. Late night weekend travel is one of the greatest threats to all of us, particularly when alcohol is involved. In addition, it is time again to be alert for all slow moving farm vehicles operating on highways as well as winter driving hazards.
3. Commanders and leaders must ensure that this holiday weekend passes without tragedy, by making safety awareness and risk management a top priority. We must continue to conduct ASMIS-2 POV risk assessments and "Under the Oak Tree Counseling." Show you care by practicing what you preach. Mandatory safety briefings and privately owned vehicle (POV) inspections are required before personnel are released for the weekend. I want all Soldiers to receive their POV inspections far enough in advance so that they have ample time to correct any deficiencies found on their vehicles prior to the holiday weekend.
4. Ensure all safety briefings emphasize the use of a designated driver, the dangers of excessive alcohol consumption, defensive driving, not driving when fatigued, protective clothing and equipment for motorcyclists, and the use of seatbelts. Remind Soldiers to start winterizing their vehicles to be ready for sudden weather changes.
5. Iron Team, assuming personal responsibility for your actions and managing risks will keep you and your family safe and healthy during this holiday weekend. Let us make this a safe and enjoyable Columbus Day holiday for all.
6. IRON SOLDIERS! DIGNITY and RESPECT!

FRED D. ROBINSON, JR.  
Major General, US Army  
Commanding

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